

USSN 09/778,537

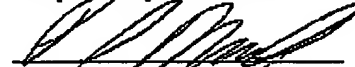
Although the Okada et al reference, as pointed out by the Examiner, discloses in Figure 13 a valve 62 in the reformat stream, neither the Okada et al reference nor the secondary Perry's reference disclose control of *that* valve in response to desired reformat pressure and measure reformat pressure, as required by Applicants' claims. To the contrary, the disclosure of Okada et al makes it clear that, as a shutoff valve, shutoff valve 62 operates in a binary fashion - either open (Okada et al col. 21, line 55 and col. 22, line 6) or closed (Okada et al col. 21, lines 55 and 64 and col. 22, line 22). Although the Okada et al reference states at col. 21, lines 59-61 that the shutoff valve 62 may be replaced with a proportional control valve, there is no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever of controlling valve 62 off of a desired reformat pressure and a measured reformat pressure signal as required by Applicants' claims. Instead, the reference discloses at col. 22, lines 1-38 that fuel cell controller 56 opens and closes shutoff valve 62 in response to start and stop commands from operation control means 2. There is no disclosure or teaching whatsoever of controlling valve 62 in response to reformat pressure. Applicants respectfully submit that any suggestion that it would be obvious to control the alternative embodiment of a control valve 62 in response to reformat pressure would not even make sense, as valve 62 is positioned immediately downstream of pressure regulator 61, which maintains a *constant* reformat pressure during operation q(col. 21, lines 53-54).

Clearly, neither the primary Okada et al reference nor the secondary Perry's reference discloses or suggests controlling a valve in a reformat stream being delivered to a fuel cell based on a desired reformat pressure and a reformat pressure signal (and a valve position signal, although this may be generally disclosed in Perry's). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection set forth in the Office Action should be withdrawn. As the claims are otherwise in condition for allowance, Applicants request early action toward that end.

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Please charge any necessary fee and any additional necessary fees, including any extension of time, or any other fee deficiencies to Delphi Technologies, Inc., Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully Submitted:



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PLM:lt